

HOUSE BILL NO. 642

FLUORIDE AMBIENT AIR STANDARDS

The Montana Air Quality Regulations currently contain two fluoride standards applicable to fluoride sources in this state. These are an emission standard and a limitation on the concentration of fluoride in forage. The sole purpose of the fluoride standards is to prevent fluoride induced damage to livestock (forage std.) and to vegetative species (emission std.). The effect of this bill would be to maintain these standards as the means for achieving this environmental goal, while precluding the adoption of an additional ambient fluoride standard.

The Montana Board of Health and Environmental Sciences on July 18, 1979, accepted the Department of Health recommendation to defer for one year the adoption of standards for fluoride in ambient air due to uncertainties concerning data collection and analysis. Previously, the Department had proposed a 24-hour standard of 1.0 part per billion gaseous fluoride and a 30-day standard of 0.3 parts per billion gaseous fluoride.

It is felt that an ambient standard for fluoride in air is unnecessary, meaningless and redundant, particularly when enforceable standards for fluoride emissions from stationary sources and fluoride in forage are already available. It is nearly impossible to accurately monitor ambient fluorides at such infinitesimal concentrations. Therefore, the purpose of the ambient standard (to limit the amount of fluoride available for uptake in vegetation) can be more readily achieved by application of the fluoride emission standard and the fluoride in forage standard.